

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 13. Claim 13 is amended herein, and new claim 17 is added. Claims 1-12 and 14-16 remain cancelled. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 13 and 17 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

REQUEST FOR EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Ms. Temnit Afework of Staas & Halsey at 202-434-1500 to arrange a convenient date and time for an Examiner Interview before the Examiner acts on this Amendment.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,308,164 (Nummelin) and U.S. Patent No. 5,557,515 (Abbrussese).

Nummelin manages information of data objects for establishing a project schedule to be used for monitoring and reporting project progress (see, column 5, lines 32-42). That is, the data objects of Nummelin are defined in terms of resources used, task duration, and the order in which a task is performed relative to other tasks (i.e., data objects managed are not used for performing the actual task).

Abbrussese tracks progress of work performed on a case in process. For example, a handler of a claim maintains information such as a specified date for action on the claim, appropriate time for displaying reminders, etc., for prioritizing the work and scheduling various tasks (see, col. 64, lines 55-65 and col. 65, lines 36-67). That is, Abbrussese does not, for example, provide information to a supervisor of the handler indicating particular portions of the claim that should be reviewed based on performance of the handler on previous claims.

The present invention indicates elements of a task that need to be a focus of review based on stored information of elements of completed tasks corresponding to the user. For example, using the same example discussed above, the present invention provides information to the supervisor indicating a particular part(s) of the claim processing operation that needs review based on the handler's previous claims (see, FIG. 8 and corresponding text of the present application).

Independent claim 13 as amended recites, "storing a plurality of elements forming tasks to be electronically processed" and "retrieving said database for a task including elements

forming the task to be electronically authorized and for the user requesting authorization of said task, where a user authorizing the task is provided with information "indicative of which elements forming the task to be electronically authorized should be reviewed."

The cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest, "storing a plurality of elements forming tasks to be electronically processed", retrieving the database and providing information "indicative of which elements forming the task to be electronically authorized should be reviewed" to a reviewer, as recited in claim 13.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 17 emphasizes that the present invention associates "elements forming completed tasks with a user requesting authorization or repudiation" and indicates "elements of a new electronically processed task presented by the user for focus of review" in accordance with the association. The cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features of new claim 17.

Therefore, new claim 17 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

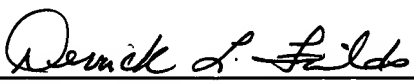
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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